Fort Ritchie Soldier Wins

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Freedoms Foundation Award

Corporal David Paul Richmond, 572nd Military Police Company (Security), U.S. Army Joint Support Command, Fort Ritchie, is the Army's only representative in the top ten of the Freedoms Foundation's Letter Program.

Cpl. Richmond won a service award and $100 for his letter "I Am An American," in the Foundation's contest. His award will be accompanied by a George Washington medal.

Cpl. Richmond, with his wife Dorothy, received his award Tuesday in Valley Forge, Pa.

He is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., and is 24 years of age. He has served at Ft. Ritchie since January, 1963, and in April of that year he reenlisted for three more years in the army. He began his first service in 1960.

The text of Cpl. Richmond's winning letter follows:

Demonstrators And Draft Card Burners

"I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense." This quotation is Article One of the Code Of Conduct For American Servicemen. I live by this code, I am an American Soldier and I'm proud to be able to serve my country, I'm writing this letter to let you and all America know how I and thousands of others just like me feel about the demonstrations you have been staging.

I want the peoples of the world to realize that all American youths are not like you. I want them to know that you demonstrators and you draft card burners do not represent our generation, our students, or our soldiers. You represent only your own misguided ideals. I am both saddened and disgusted by the demonstrations that are taking place on the campuses of our colleges and universities. I did not think that Americans were capable of doing what you are doing.

I realize that there are certain individuals who for various moral or religious reasons believe they should not bear arms; however, there are those of you who hide behind the legitimate guise of conscientious objectors for your own selfish reasons.

I am calling you conscientious cowards. There were thousands of good Americans who gave their time, their blood and even their very lives to insure that the likes of you could grow, live and prosper in a free country, possibly some of them were your brothers or fathers, is this then how you repay them? You make a mockery of their sacrifices and abuse the freedom for which they paid so dearly. You have the nerve to live in their country, to bask in the sunshine of freedom they earned and reap the benefits they fought for. How then can you refuse to join them in keeping America Free? You have the audacity to call yourselves Americans? I call you TRAITORS!

Every privilege and every right carries with it a certain responsibility and you have taken all the privileges, but you shun your responsibilities. You call yourselves citizens? I call you communist pawns!

I have heard you say that the conflict in Southeast Asia is a dirty, senseless war, and than you want no part of it. I say there is no such thing as a clean and sensible war, but sometimes force of arms is the only way out.

If you had a cancer in your body, would you ignore it, would you let it spread, would you stay the surgeon's knife? If so it would destroy you. Such is communism, a rotting cancer in the face of the earth; which if not checked now will destroy our society. Our country is the surgeon, the military his scapel. Why won't you assist in the operation?

I am not what you would call a hero, nor do I desire to die for a senseless cause; however, I happen to believe that freedom for all people is not a senseless cause. If it became necessary that I should give my life in order to insure that my son could grow to be a free man, and that my wife and family could live free from oppression I would gladly give it; as would every real American.

Our late President once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." In your case I'm afraid his plea fell on deaf ears. All you do is complain. You sing songs, demonstrate and march; so far you have accomplished nothing, but to make asses out of yourselves. All in all you made a lot of unnecessary noise, but someone said. "Empty barrels always make the most noise." If you must march, who don't you march to Southeast Asia and wave your placards at the Viet Cong? Go to Hanoi and burn your draft cards; you would accomplish the same thing there as you did here — NOTHING.

I have only one regret, that is that I have to defend you misfits along with the good Americans.

All I can say to you is that if you don't like it here you can always leave. If you think this country is so bad off, you can get the hell out of it. We don't want you, much less need you, and I assure you no tears will be shed when you go.

As I opened this letter with an article of our Code of Conduct, so shall I close with another. "I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

Freedom Foundation Awards Given

Five area residents and a Washington County High School were named winners of Freedom's Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., honors yesterday for contributions to the American way of life.

The six which included the high school, three servicemen, a photographer and a student, were among nearly thirty recipients in Maryland to be honored by the foundation.

Those receiving honors were: Boonsboro Senior High School, Boonsboro, $50 and George Washington Honor Medal Award for school editorial, "You Can Count on Me."

Cpl. David P. Richmond, U.S. Army, Fort Ritchie, $100 and George Washington Honor Medal for armed forces letter, "I am an American."

Spec. 5 Joseph V. Heller Jr., U.S. Army, Bethesda, $50 and George Washington Honor Medal for Armed Forces letter, "I am an American."

Pfc. Michael J. Reynolds, U.S. Army, Silver Spring, Honor Certificate Award for armed forces letter, "I am an American."

Martin H. Miller, Silver Spring, Distinguished Service Award for photograph, "Old Glory in Young Hearts."

John M. Chakan, Rockville, George Washington Honor Medal Award for youth public address, "America the Beautiful —My Country."

The 1965 award jurors in Maryland were Vice Adm. Charles Wellborn Jr., Bethesda; Thomas S. Gwynn Jr., international director of Lions International, Clinton; and Mrs. Emma C. Eunick, national president of the American Gold Star Mothers, Westminster.

FOUNDATION WINNER—Corporal David P. Richmond, 572d Military Police Company (Security), U.S. Army Joint Support Command, Fort Ritchie, with his Army Sentry Dog, "Pal" CPI. Richard won an award from the freedoms foundation for his letter on "Demonstrators and Draft Card Burners."